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SEPT

# THE NEW MUTANTS





STAN LEE PRESENTS:

# SATURDAY NIGHT FIGHT

THE NEW MUTANTS VERSUS THE GLADIATORS

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EDITOR IN CHIEF

THERE'S A PLACE IN LOS ANGELES WHERE THE JADED RICH GO--AS THE ANCIENT ROMANS DID TO THEIR COLISEUM--AND PAY BIG BUCKS TO WATCH PEOPLE TRY THEIR BEST TO KILL EACH OTHER.

HERE, IT'S CALLED THE ARENA, AND THE COMBATANTS ARE GLADIATORS.

TONIGHT'S MAIN EVENT PITS A PAIR OF KID-NAPPED TEENAGERS--ROBERT D'ACOSTA AND AMARA AQUILLA--AGAINST A HULKING NIGHTMARE. THUS FAR, THE BETS FAVOR THE CREATURE. THE KIDS, MOST OF THE CROWD FIGURES, DON'T HAVE A PRAYER.

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ON A DAISS CENTER-STAGE,  
SINGING HER HEART OUT--  
PROVIDING A MUSICAL  
COUNTERPART TO THE LIFE-  
AND-DEATH STRUGGLE  
RAGING NEARBY--IS  
ALISON BLAIRE, THE  
DAZZLER.

LIKE BOBBY AND AMARA,  
SHE'S A MUTANT-- BORN  
WITH FANTASTIC POWERS  
THAT BRAND HER AS AN  
OUTCAST FROM HUMANITY  
AS SURELY AND IRREVOCA-  
BLY AS GOD'S MARK DID  
CAIN.

SHE TAKES SOUND--  
HER SONG, HER MUSIC,  
THE ROAR OF THE CROWD,  
THE CLASH OF STEEL, A  
CRY OF PAIN-- AND TRANS-  
FORMS IT INTO LIGHT...

...A PHANTASMA-  
GORIC, BREATH-  
TAKING COLLAGE  
OF BRILLIANT  
COLORS THAT  
SWIRLS ABOUT HER  
AS IF IT HAD LIFE  
AND AWARENESS  
OF ITS OWN.

IT'S SUCH RAW BEAUTY  
AS NONE IN THE AUDI-  
ENCE HAVE EVER SEEN  
AND WHICH FEW CAN  
ENDURE. IT OVERWHELMS  
THEIR SENSES FAR, FAR  
MORE THAN ANY DRUG.  
IT REACHES FROM THE  
CORE OF ALI'S BEING TO  
THEIRS AND LEAVES THEM  
TRULY DAZZLED.

FOR THESE PEOPLE,  
NOTHING WILL EVER BE  
THE SAME. AFTER TO-  
NIGHT, NO LIGHT WILL  
EVER BE AS RADIANT;  
AND THE MOST GLORI-  
OUS HUES WILL LOOK  
FADED AND DULL BY  
COMPARISON. IT'S A  
MOMENT OF GLORY  
THAT WILL SHADOW THE  
REST OF THEIR LIVES,  
A MEMORY THAT WILL  
FOREVER HAUNT THEM.

A PUNISHMENT  
FAR MORE SEVERE--  
AND FITTING-- THAN  
ANY PRISON.



AWARE OF THAT,  
AND ENJOYING  
EVERY MINUTE,  
IS THE MASTER  
OF THE GAMES...

KILL THEM, MY PET!

KILL HIM, MY  
CHILDREN!!

TEEHEETEEHEENAHANAHONO!

NO MATTER  
THE OUTCOME,  
I WIN!

THOSE PATHETIC BABES HAVE  
NO IDEA THAT THEY BATTLE  
A ROBOT, AND LOCKED HELPLESSLY  
WITHIN IS THEIR WOULD-BE  
SAVIOR, THE X-MAN, KITTY  
PRYDE! THEY MUST EITHER  
DESTROY HER, OR BE  
SLAIN THEMSELVES!

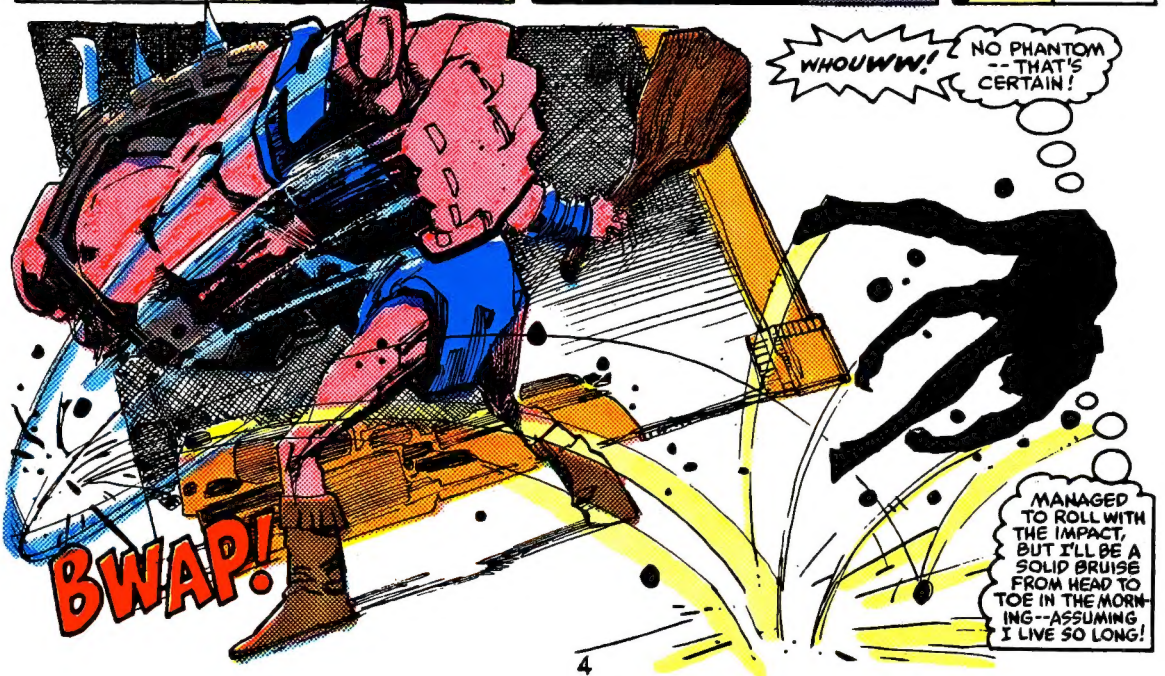
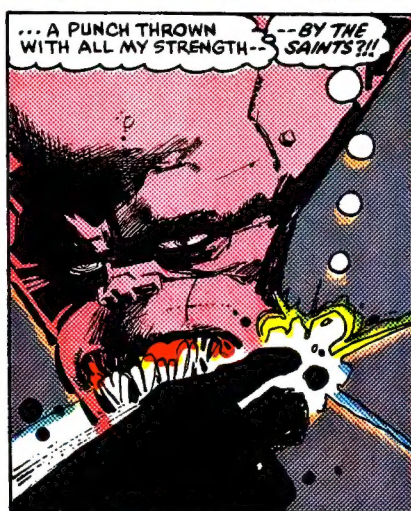
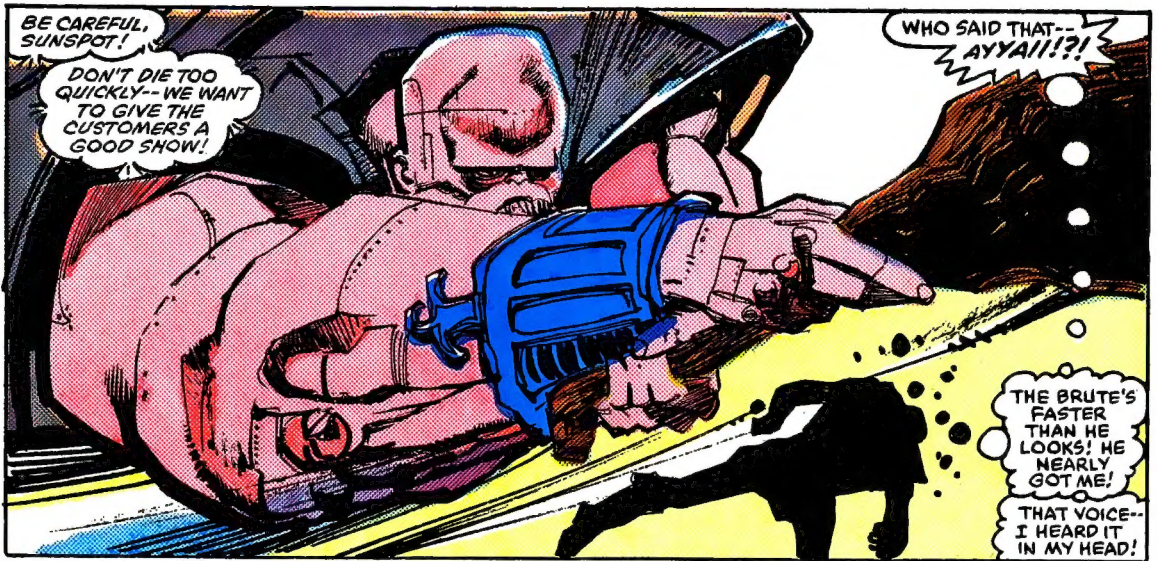
PERHAPS,  
AFTERWARDS,  
I SHALL HAVE  
DAZZLER  
EXECUTE THE  
VICTOR--THAT  
WOULD BE  
AMUSING.

MOREOVER, EACH  
MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE  
WAS SECRETLY PHOTO-  
GRAPHED AS THEY ARRIVED.  
I WONDER WHAT THEY WILL SAY  
WHEN I SEND THEM THE PICTURES?  
AND HOW HIGH A PRICE THEY  
WILL PAY TO KEEP ME FROM  
TURNING THEM OVER TO  
THE AUTHORITIES?!

DESPITE THEIR WEALTH AND  
VAUNTED POWER, THEY WILL  
SOON BE AS MUCH MY SLAVES  
AS THESE MUTANTS IN MY  
ARENA!

I SO LOVE IT WHEN  
AN AFFAIR PROVES AS  
PROFITABLE AS IT IS  
ENJOYABLE.







THAT,  
FOUL  
CREATURE--

--IS QUITE  
ENOUGH!

AS MAGMA,  
THE YOUNG NOVA  
ROMANI CONTROLS  
THE VERY SUBSTANCE  
OF THE PLANET IT-  
SELF. AMARA CAN  
MANIPULATE LAVA  
FLOWS, CREATE VOL-  
CANOS OR, AS IN THIS  
CASE, OPEN A VIRTUALLY  
BOTTOMLESS FISSURE.

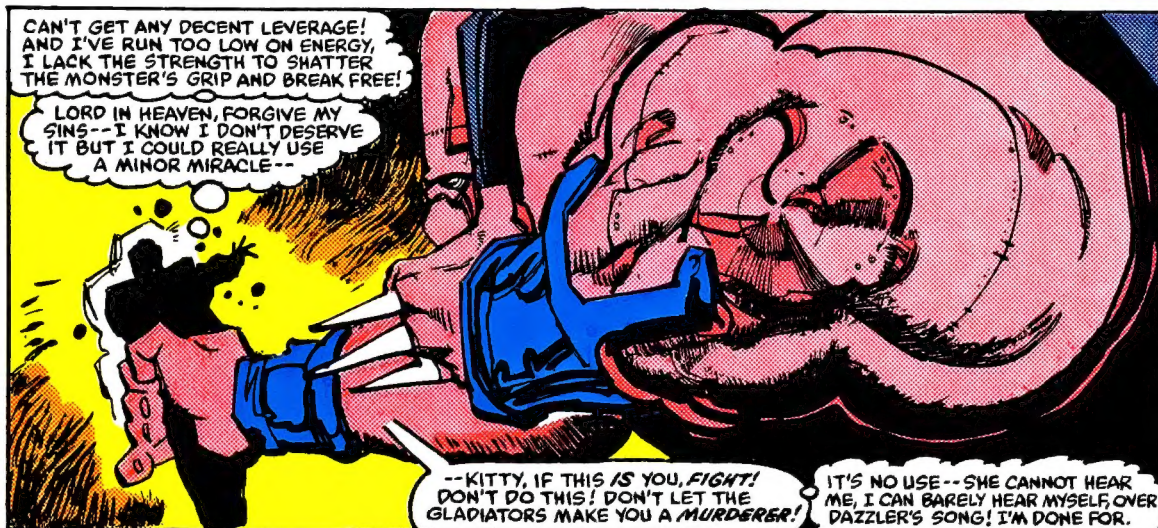
SHE ASSUMES  
GRAVITY WILL  
DO THE REST.

IMAGINE HER  
SURPRISE,  
HOWEVER, WHEN...

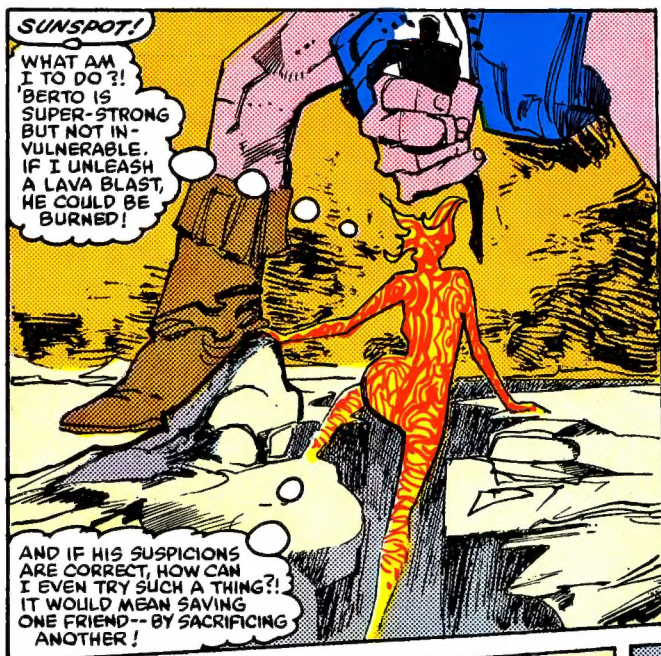
THE  
MONSTER DOES  
NOT FALL--IT  
FLOATS, IT  
WALKS ON  
AIR!

IMPOSSIBLE--  
HOW CAN THAT  
BE?!?





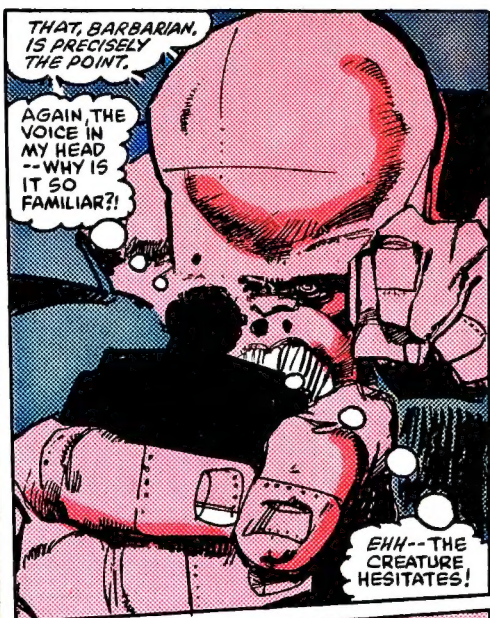




SUNSPOT!

WHAT AM I TO DO?!  
BERTO IS SUPER-STRONG BUT NOT INVULNERABLE. IF I UNLEASH A LAVA BLAST, HE COULD BE BURNED!

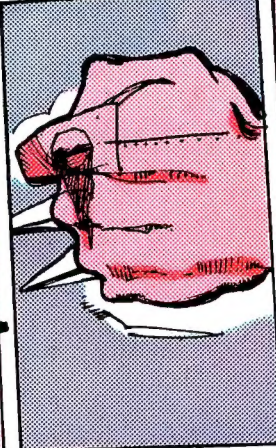
AND IF HIS SUSPICIONS ARE CORRECT, HOW CAN I EVEN TRY SUCH A THING?! IT WOULD MEAN SAVING ONE FRIEND-- BY SACRIFICING ANOTHER!



THAT, BARBARIAN, IS PRECISELY THE POINT.

AGAIN, THE VOICE IN MY HEAD -- WHY IS IT SO FAMILIAR?!

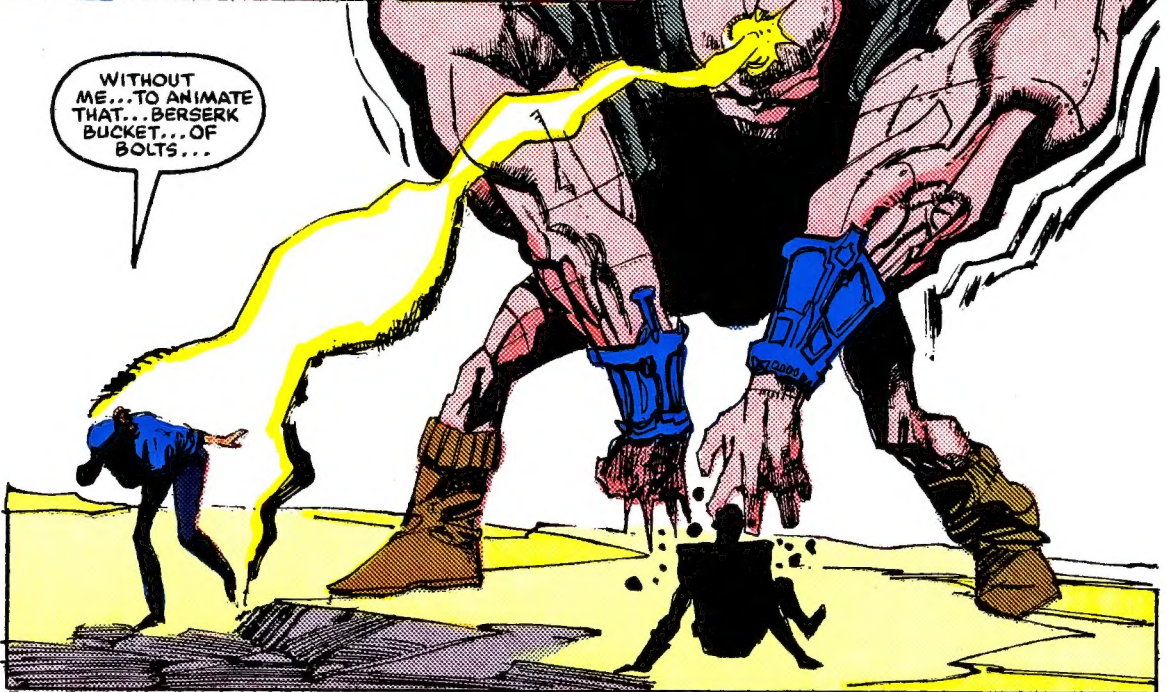
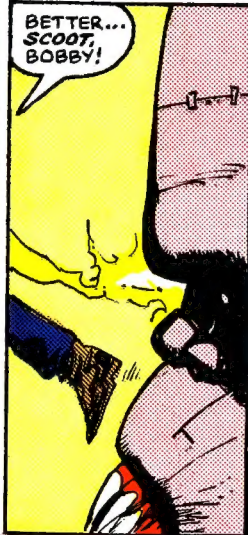
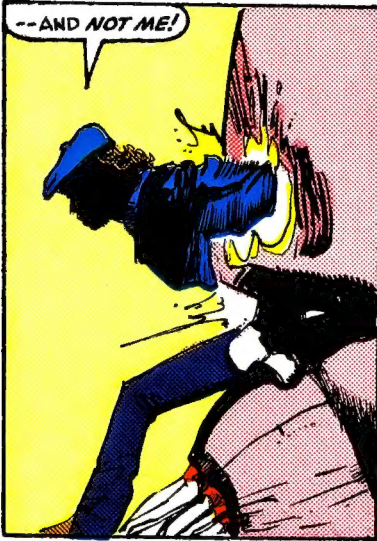
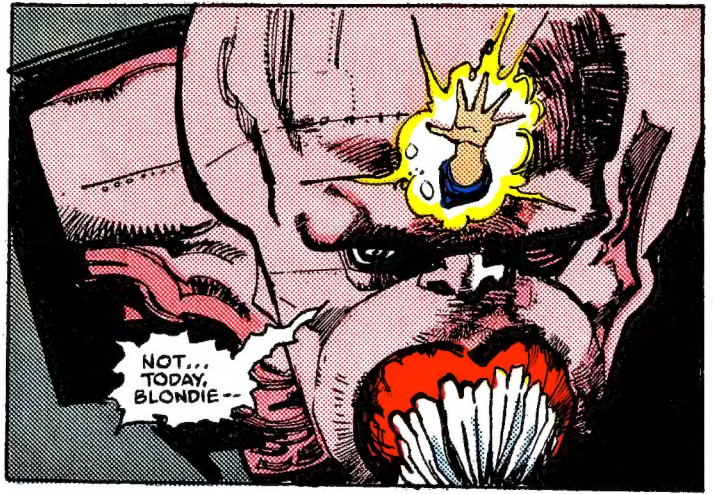
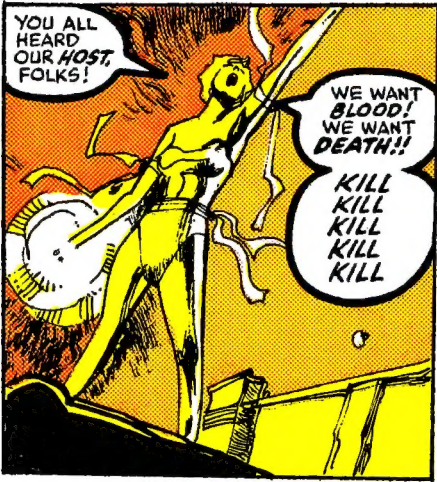
EHH-- THE CREATURE HESITATES!



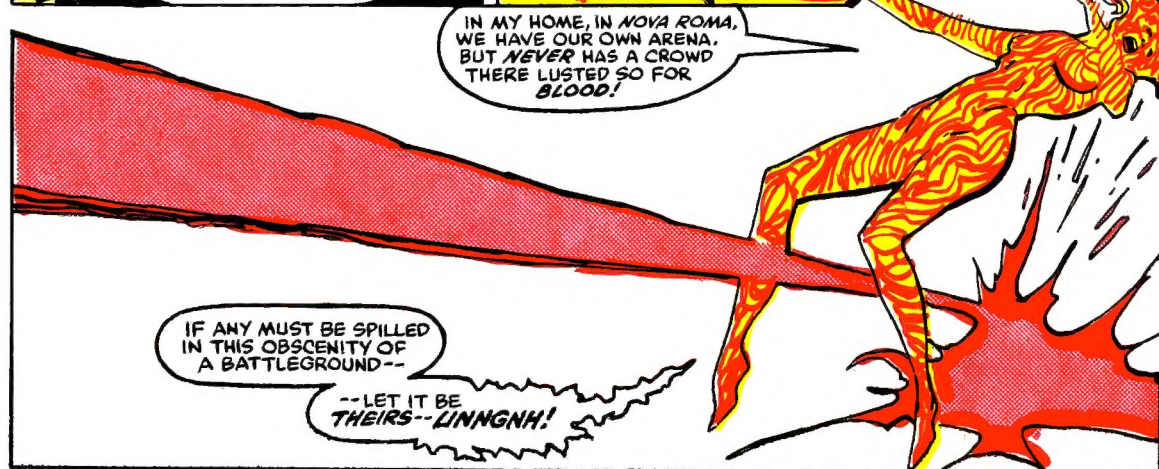
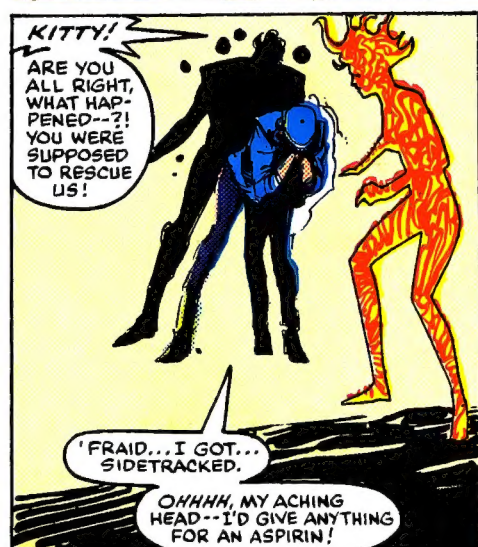
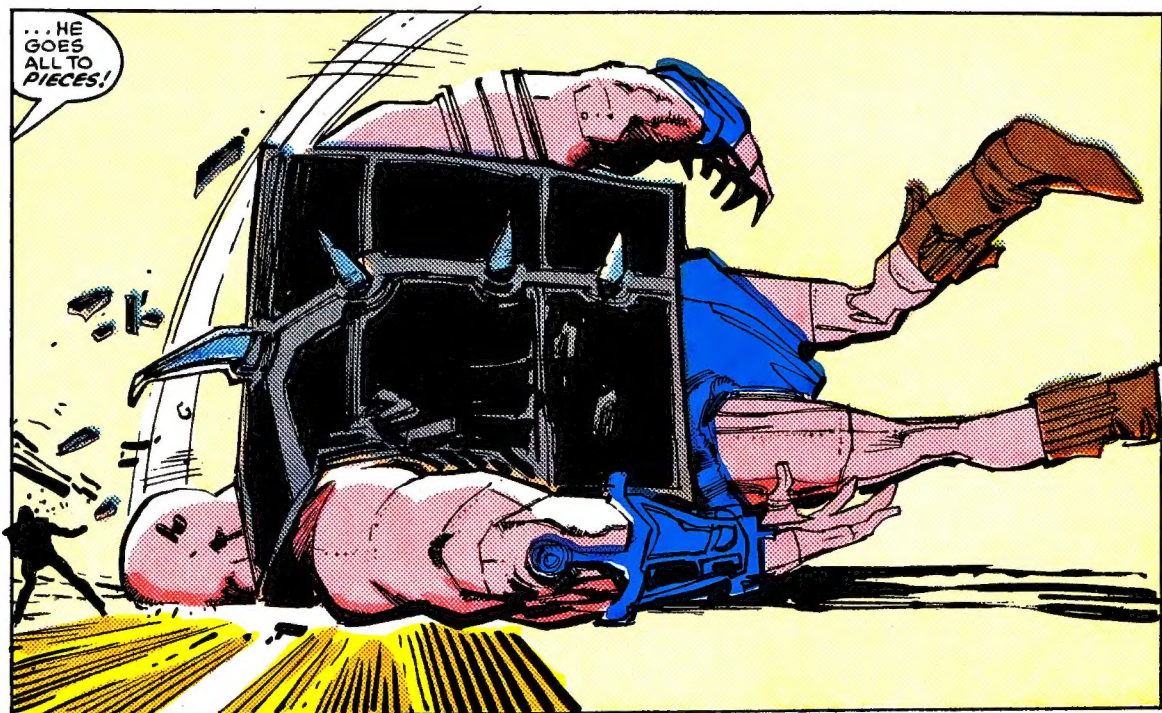
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR--

--KILL HIM!

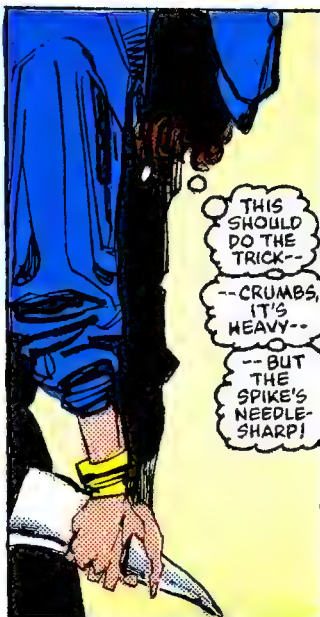
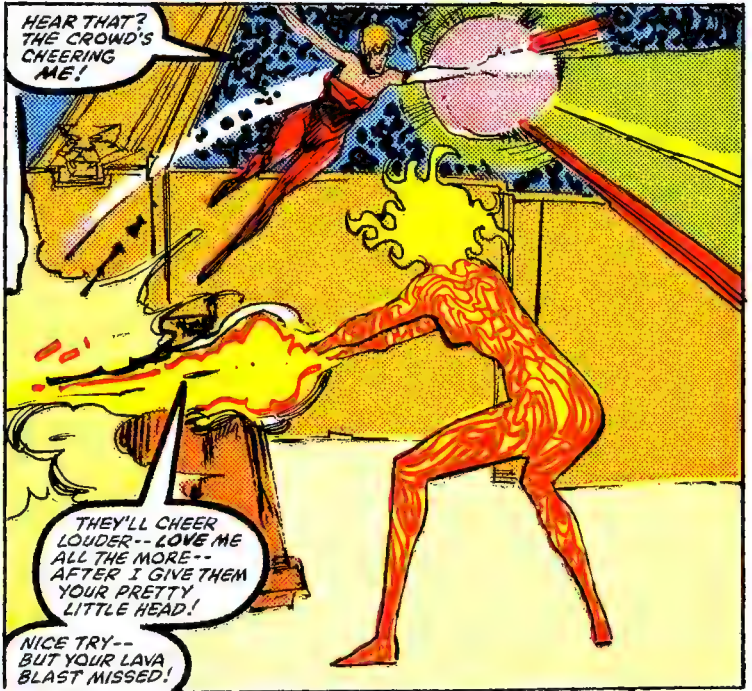




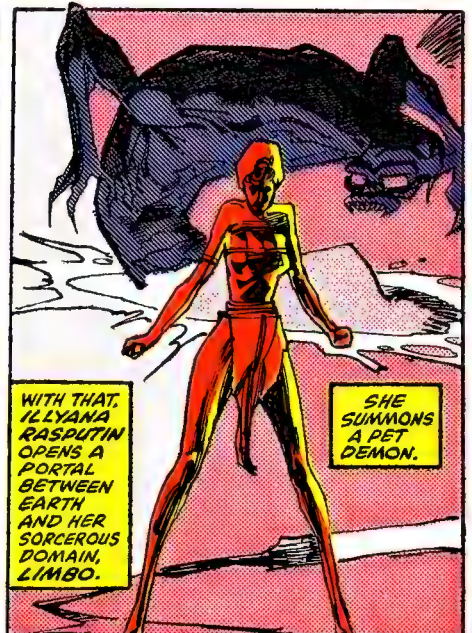
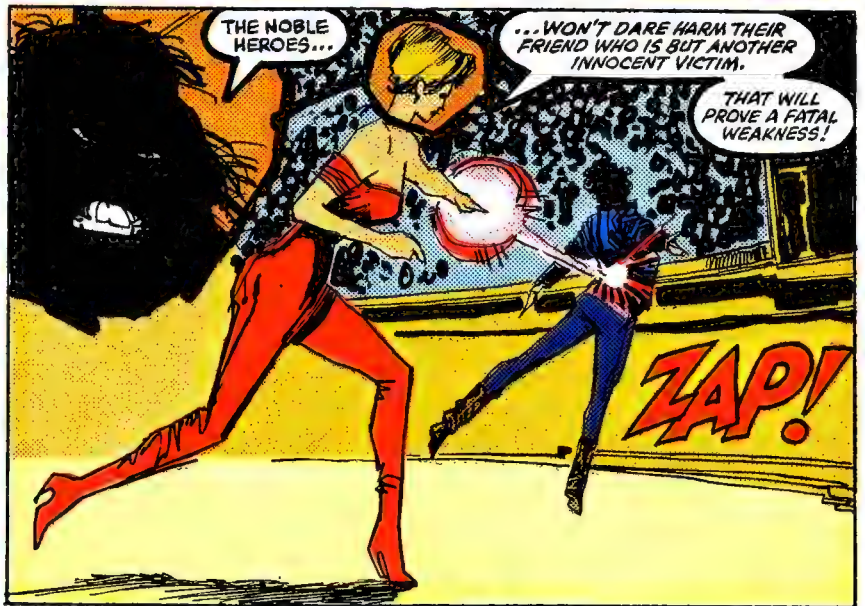
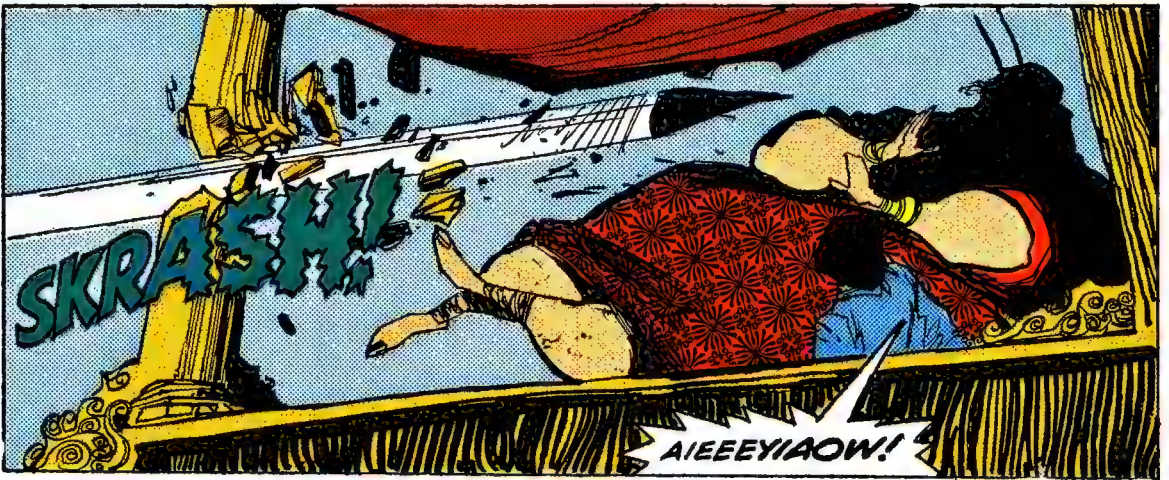




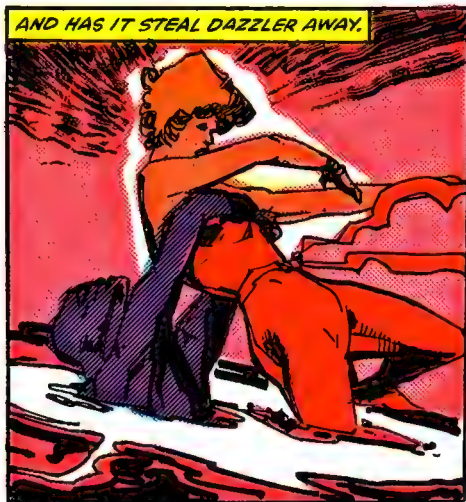




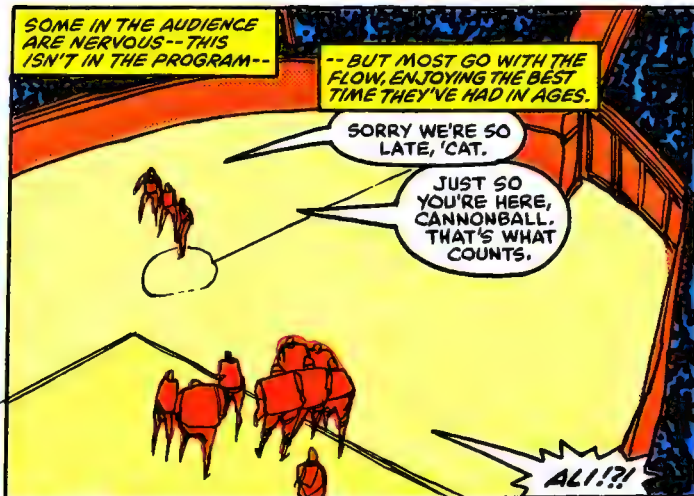








AND HAS IT STEAL DAZZLER AWAY.



SOME IN THE AUDIENCE ARE NERVOUS-- THIS ISN'T IN THE PROGRAM--

-- BUT MOST GO WITH THE FLOW, ENJOYING THE BEST TIME THEY'VE HAD IN AGES.

SORRY WE'RE SO LATE, 'CAT.

JUST SO YOU'RE HERE, CANNONBALL. THAT'S WHAT COUNTS.

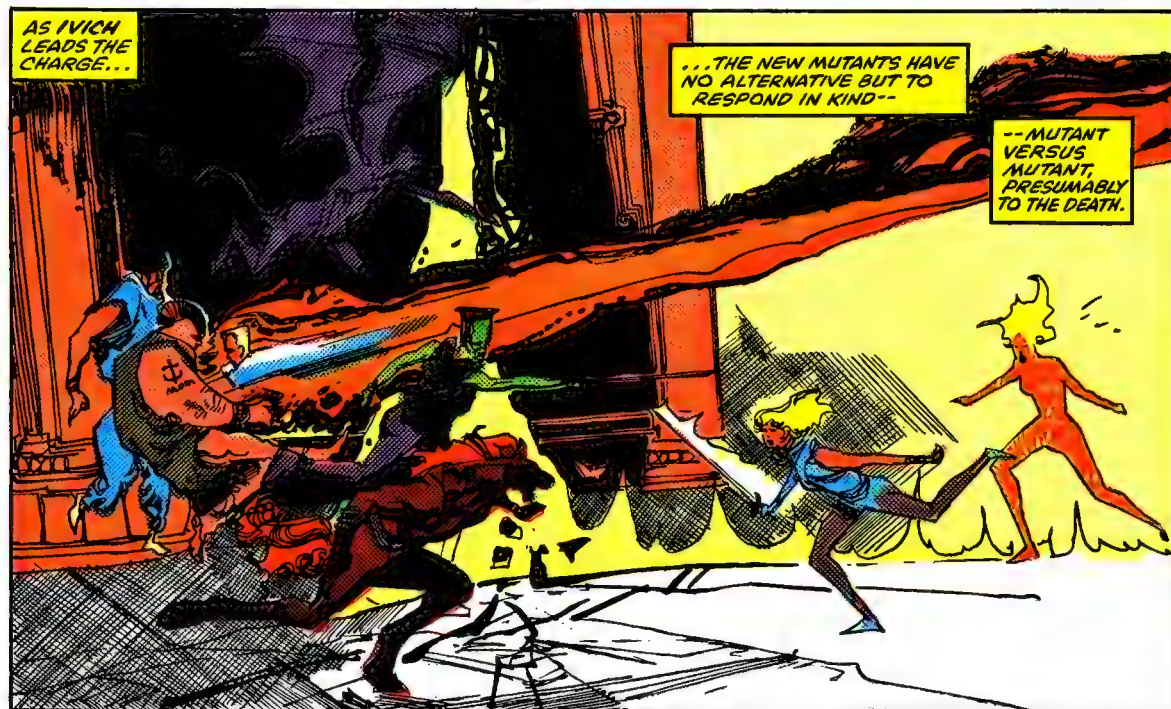
ALI!?!



THEY KILLED HER, THEY KILLED MY BEST FRIEND!

GLADIATORS, FOLLOW ME!

LET'S DO THE SAME TO THEM!



AS IVICH LEADS THE CHARGE...

...THE NEW MUTANTS HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO RESPOND IN KIND--

-- MUTANT VERSUS MUTANT, PRESUMABLY TO THE DEATH.



AS THE BATTLE RAGES, A CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE BECOMES APPARENT. THE NEW MUTANTS ARE A TEAM...

... WHEREAS THE GLADIATORS ARE INDIVIDUALS, UNUSED TO WORKING BESIDE-- AND THEREBY TRUSTING-- ANYONE. SLOWLY, BUT INEXORABLY, THE ADVANTAGE SHIFTS TOWARDS THE TEENAGERS.

"WE NEED HER!"

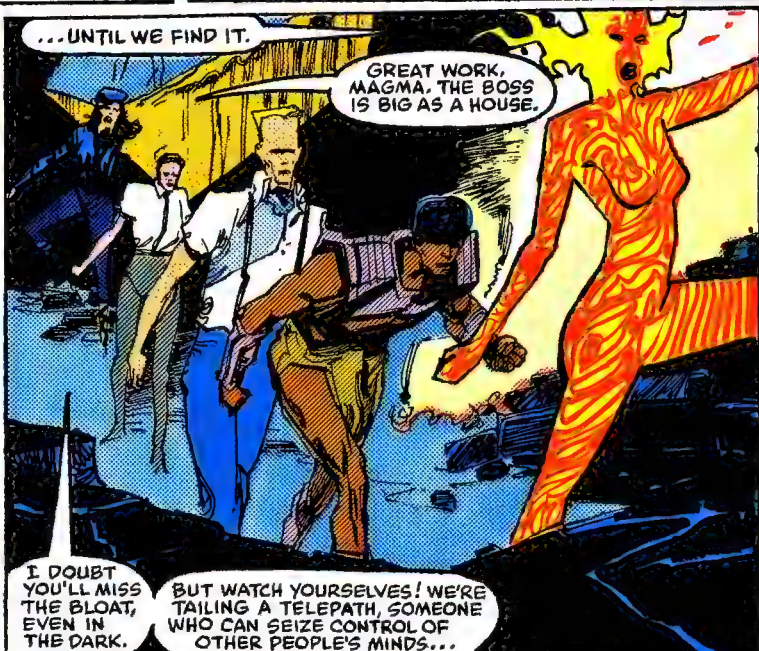
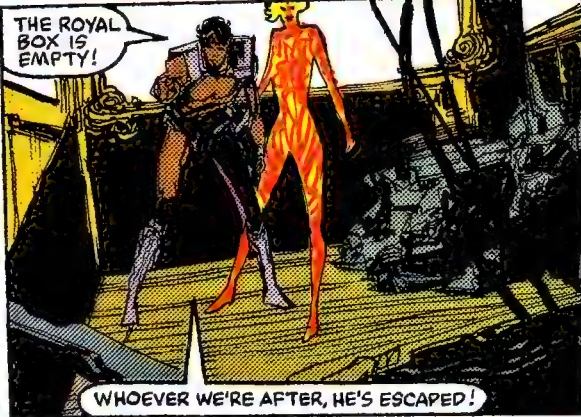
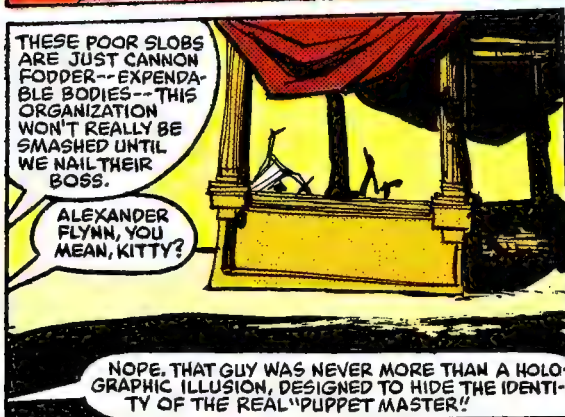
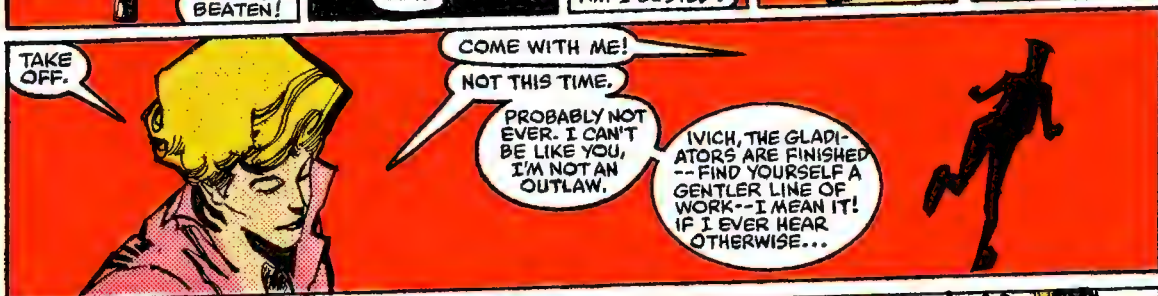
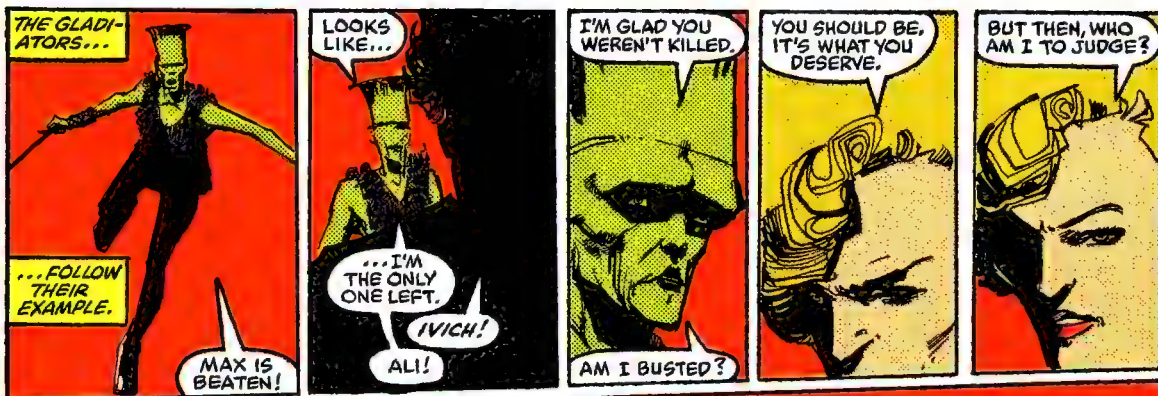
"OKAY-- BUT IF YOU'RE WRONG, SHE GOES BACK, FOREVER!"

OH!?!

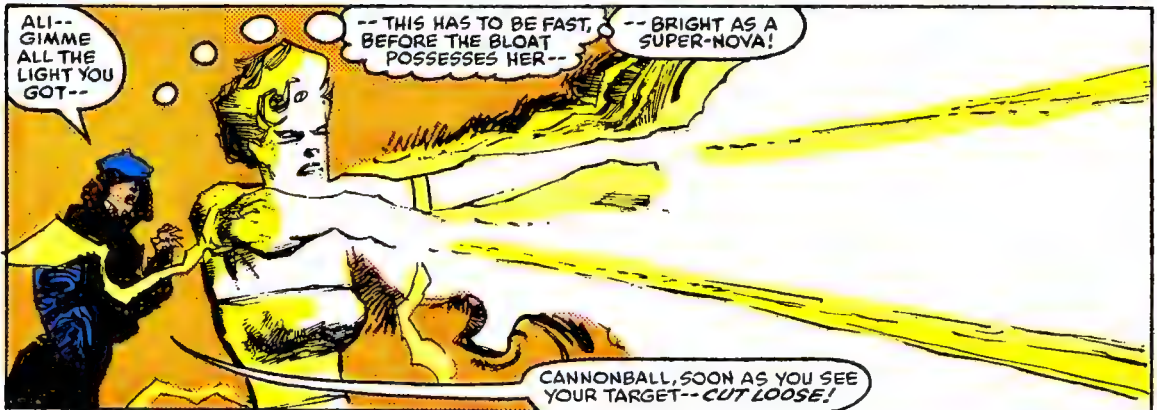
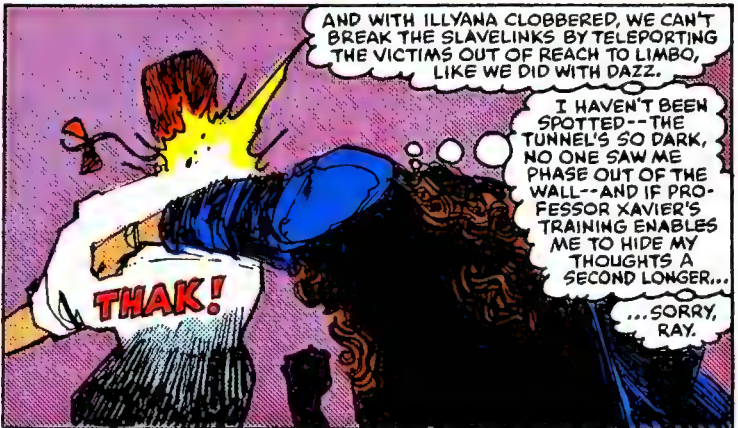
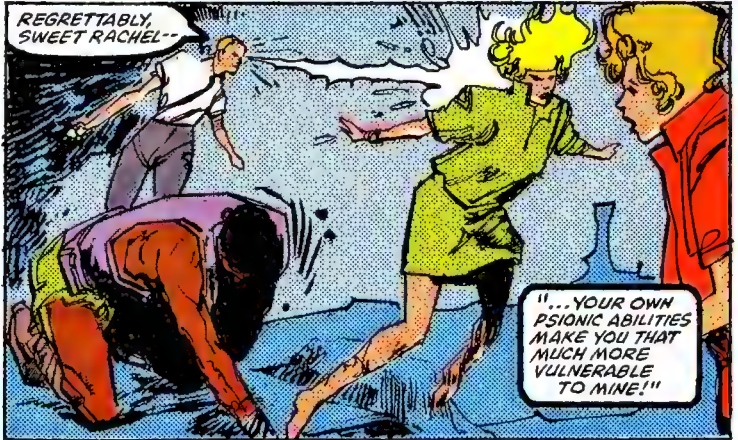
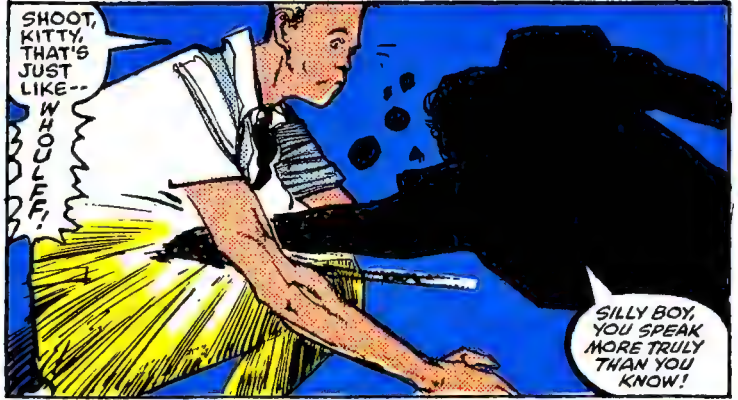
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**...IGNORING, IN THEIR PANICKY FRENZY, DAZZLER'S SOOTHING CHROMATIC DISPLAY,**

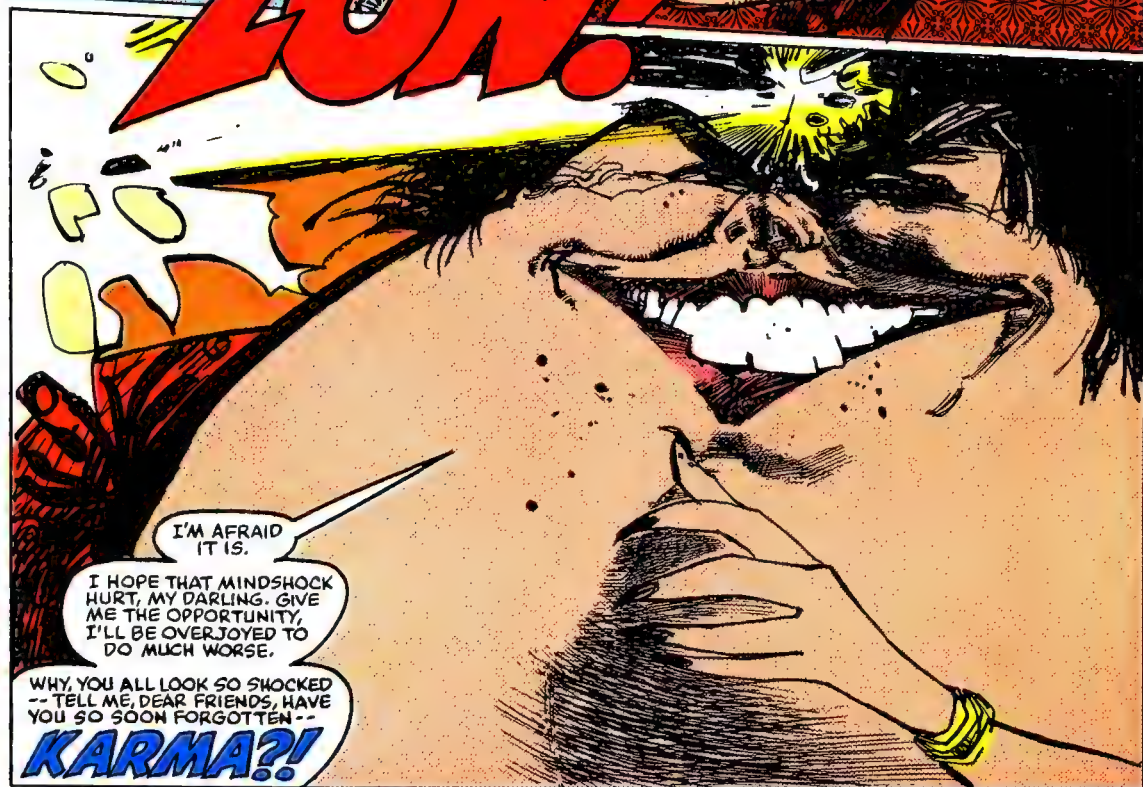
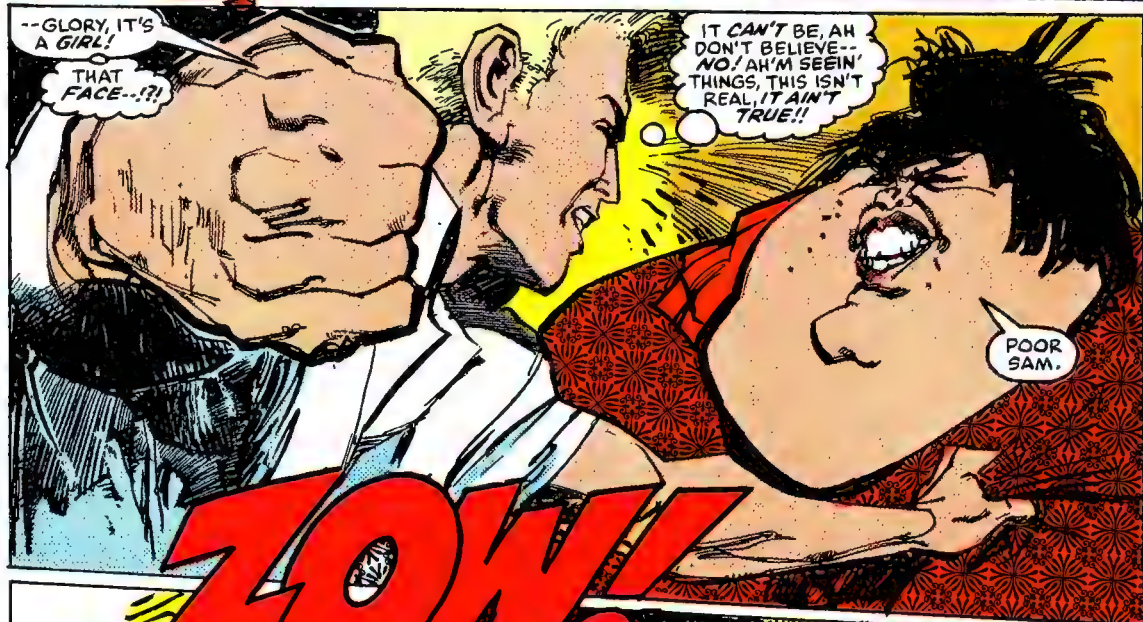
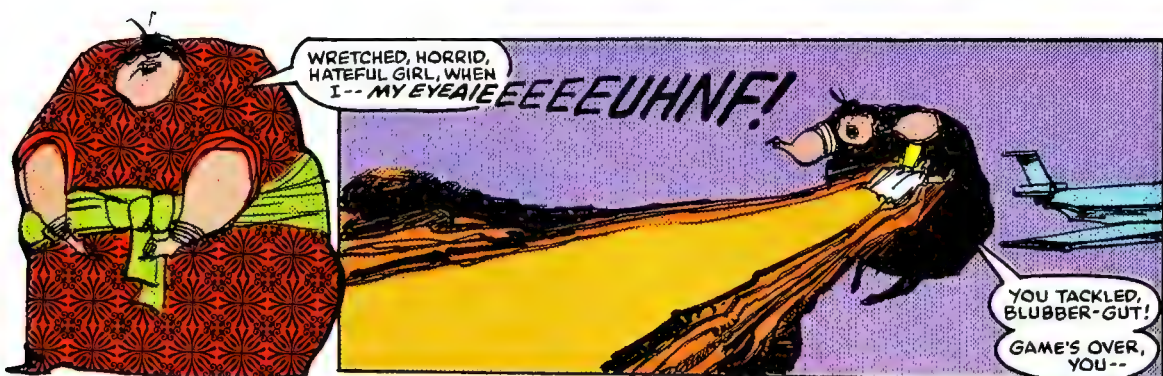




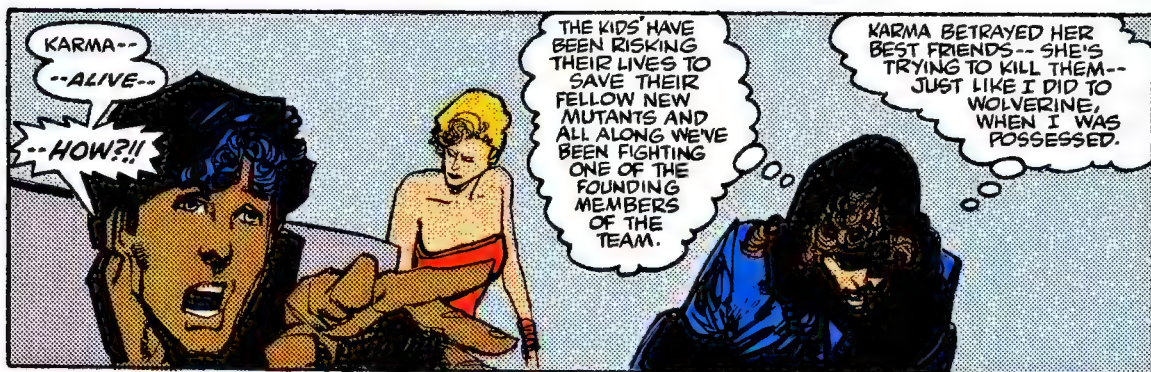




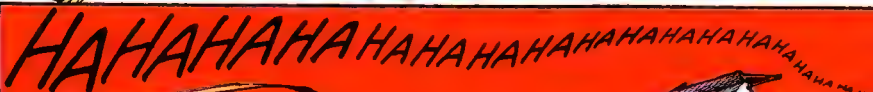












**SAM, YOU CAN  
BARELY STAND,  
MUCH LESS  
FLY!**

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL--  
WE ALL DO-- BUT THE  
SKYCRAFT ALREADY HAS  
TOO GREAT A LEAD.

I HATE TO SAY IT, AMIGO, BUT AMARA'S RIGHT.

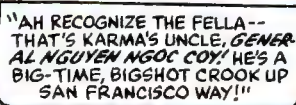
YOU'LL  
NEVER  
CATCH  
IT.

GOT...TA  
FOLLOW--!



YEAH, YOU  
BURROWED  
A TUNNEL  
RIGHT UP TO  
THE RIDGE WHERE  
WE STASHED  
OUR CAR.

KITTY, SAM--  
LOOK! THE  
POLICE HAVE  
A PRISONER!

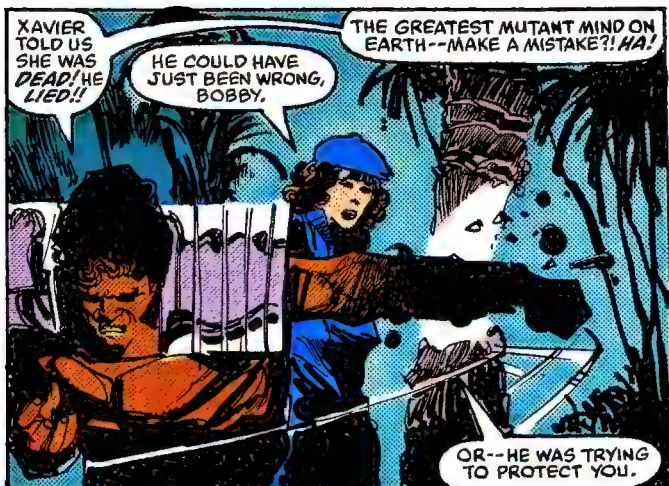


"MUST RUN IN THE FAMILY."



YOU DIDN'T KNOW  
SHAN, YOU GOT NO  
RIGHT MOUTHIN' OFF  
ABOUT HER!





XAVIER TOLD US SHE WAS DEAD! HE LIED!!

HE COULD HAVE JUST BEEN WRONG, BOBBY.

THE GREATEST MUTANT MIND ON EARTH--MAKE A MISTAKE?! HA!

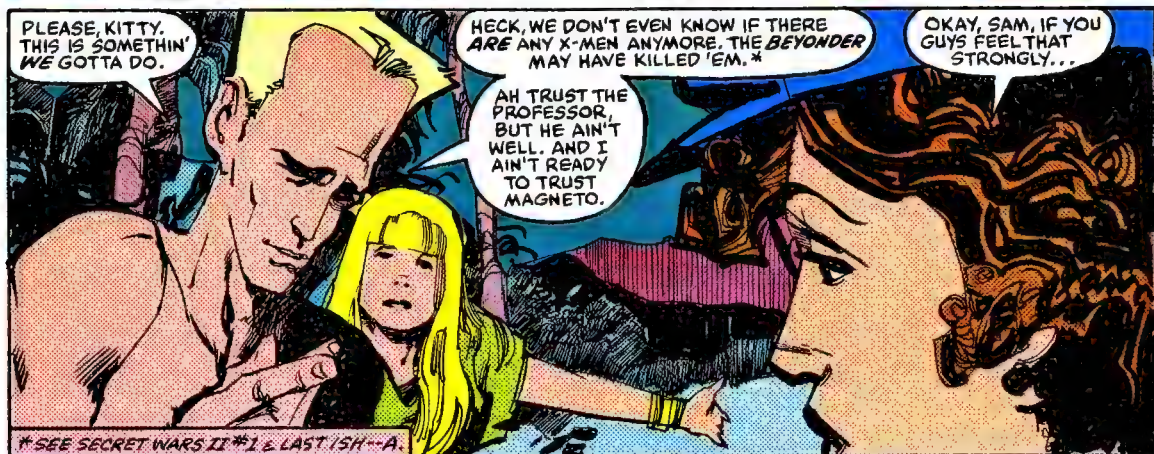
OR--HE WAS TRYING TO PROTECT YOU.



WHICHEVER, KARMA WAS ONCE A NEW MUTANT. IT THEREFORE FALLS TO US TO PUT THINGS RIGHT. WE MUST EITHER HELP HER, OR BRING HER TO JUSTICE.

MAGMA, LET THE X-MEN HANDLE IT...

WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN, SHADOWCAT.



PLEASE, KITTY. THIS IS SOMETHIN' WE GOTTA DO.

HECK, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY X-MEN ANYMORE. THE BEYONDER MAY HAVE KILLED 'EM.\*

OKAY, SAM, IF YOU GUYS FEEL THAT STRONGLY...

AH TRUST THE PROFESSOR, BUT HE AIN'T WELL. AND I AIN'T READY TO TRUST MAGNETO.

\*SEE SECRET WARS II #1 & LAST ISH--A.



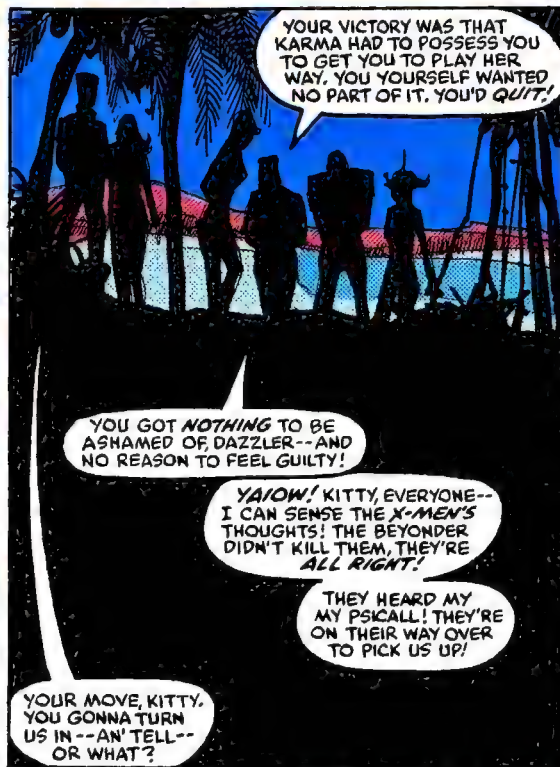
HEY, DAZZ-- HOW'S BY YOU?

TOP OF THE WORLD, KITTY.

ALL, WHAT YOU DID TONIGHT, THAT WASN'T YOU. KARMA POSSESSED YOU. SHE FORCED YOU.

WHAT ABOUT LAST NIGHT? ALL THE OTHER BOUTS?! IT'S A TEMPTING-- WONDERFUL-- EXCUSE YOU OFFER, BUT IT WON'T WASH.

I READ YOUR DIARY, ALI! WHAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU FACED YOUR PERSONAL, PRIVATE DEMON-- THE NASTY WANTS AND NEEDS AND DREAMS THAT DROVE YOU TO THE GLADIATORS-- AND BEAT IT!



YOUR VICTORY WAS THAT KARMA HAD TO POSSESS YOU TO GET YOU TO PLAY HER WAY. YOU YOURSELF WANTED NO PART OF IT, YOU'D QUIT!

YOU GOT NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF, DAZZLER-- AND NO REASON TO FEEL GUILTY!

YAYOW! KITTY, EVERYONE-- I CAN SENSE THE X-MEN'S THOUGHTS! THE BEYONDER DIDN'T KILL THEM, THEY'RE ALL RIGHT!

THEY HEARD MY MY PSICALL! THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY OVER TO PICK US UP!

YOUR MOVE, KITTY. YOU GONNA TURN US IN-- AN' TELL-- OR WHAT?





I'VE A NASTY FEELING I'M GOING TO REGRET THIS...

BUT I GUESS SOMEONE'S GOT TO COVER FOR YOU WITH THE PROF.

YO, SAM -- REMEMBER, IF THINGS GO HAYWIRE, DON'T YOU HESITATE TO CALL FOR HELP.

WE NEED IT, LITTLE LADY, Y'ALL WILL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW.

YOU THINK WE HAVE A CHANCE?

BEATS ME, BOBBY.

BUT SHAN WAS THE FIRST NEW MUTANT-- OUR TEAMMATES AND OUR FRIEND. WHATEVER IT COSTS...

...WE GOTTA TRY.

**NEXT: THE QUEST FOR KARMA BEGINS BY TAKING THE NEW MUTANTS--TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!**



# BULLPEN BULLETINS

Thursday, March 14, Morrie Kuramoto died at age 64. He was a letterer and production man here at Marvel for so long that he was often called "the Ancient One." I was asked to speak at his Memorial Service. This is what I said:

I'm here representing the people Morrie worked with. I'm certainly not the best representative — there were others who knew him longer and better than I, but ... I'm the biggest, I guess, so ...

I knew Morrie well enough to know that he wouldn't want us to be so sad. As a matter of fact, it's been suggested that this ceremony should have been held at the OTB (Off-Track Betting) office.

I've been hearing other people speak about what a sweetheart Morrie was. Well, I'd like to add to that, that he was a crusty, stubborn,

tough old coot who gave new meaning to the word curmudgeon. He was no pushover. And tough? When we had the transit strike a few years back, he walked to work from Astoria, Queens.

But he was a gentleman, too, in

all senses of the word.

Morrie probably helped more people get started in our business than anyone else. New guys were routinely sent to Morrie for advice. He was a great teacher. He even taught me paste-up and production back in 1969.

Excuse me ... I'm having trouble getting through this ... but, hey, I cry at weddings on TV.

You know, Morrie wasn't rich, but if wealth were judged by how many people care about you, and how much they care, he would have been a billionaire.

Well, at least Morrie won't be losing any more races ... the OTB's are going to miss him ...

And so are we.

*Jim Shooter*  
Jim Shooter  
Editor in Chief

MORRIE KURAMOTO  
(SELF-CARICATURE)



## HYPE BOX

### SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series)

#1 — Hyperion! Nighthawk! Princess Power! They form the nucleus of the greatest super-team of their earth! But their world has suffered an unprecedented disaster, and now it teeters on the brink of total anarchy! Civilization's last hope is the Squadron Supreme, but will even their combined super-powers be enough? Find out in this double-sized premiere issue written by MARK GRUENWALD, penciled by BOB HALL and inked by JOHN BEATTY! It's the most incredible 12-issue series you'll read! **SOLOMON KANE (Limited Series) #1** — ROBERT E. HOWARD's swashbuckling Puritan returns to Marvel Comics! This

double-sized issue features the adaptation of the classic "Red Shadows," in which our 16th Century hero battles the forces of voodoo and sorcery in darkest Africa! This 6-issue series is written by RALPH MACCHIO, with art by BRET BLEVINS! **LONGSHOT (Limited Series) #1** — Marvel's newest super hero sensation is an interdimensional alien who has just popped up on Earth! But nobody knows just who he is or why he's here ... including Longshot himself! Don't miss this 6-issue series of Marvel magic, brought to you by ANN

NOCENTI (writer), BILL ANDERSON and WILLIAM PORTACIO (inkers), and introducing the penciling wizardry of ART ADAMS!

**GRAPHIC NOVEL #16: THE ALADDIN EFFECT** — Holly-Ann Ember is just one little girl. How can she possibly save her town from the overwhelming forces of A.I.M. all by herself? She can't! But with the help of She-Hulk, Tigra, Wasp and Storm, she might have a chance ... unless they're all destroyed by A.I.M.'s most awesome threat ever! You dare not miss this battle royale plotted by SHOOTER, scripted by MICHELINIE, penciled by LAROCQUE and inked by COLLETTA!

## CHECKLIST

- ☐ **THE THING #27**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #222**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #31**
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #6** — Secret Wars II cross-over!
- ☐ **CLOAK AND DAGGER #1** — Their own regular bi-monthly series at last!
- ☐ **GARGOYLE (Limited Series) #4** — The thrilling finale!
- ☐ **RAWHIDE KID (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #1** — See Hype Box!
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #30**
- ☐ **THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN MARVEL (Limited Series) #2** — Reprinting JIM STARLIN'S classic epic!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #268** — Secret Wars II cross-over!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #309**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #14**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #12**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #26**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #31**
- ☐ **DAZZLER #39**
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- ☐ **GN #16: THE ALADDIN EFFECT** — See Hype Box!




FROM THE PRIVATE JOURNALS  
OF CHARLES XAVIER

MANUEL ALFONSO RODRIGO DE LA ROCHA/EMPATH

ONE OF THE HELLIONS, A BAND OF SUPER-POWERED MUTANTS GATHERED BY EMMA FROST, THE WHITE QUEEN OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB, IN HER ROLE AS HEADMISTRESS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY, A PRESTIGIOUS NEW ENGLAND PRIVATE SCHOOL.

HE IS QUITE SIMPLY WHAT HIS NAME IMPLIES, SOMEONE WHO CAN MANIPULATE THE EMOTIONS OF SENTIENT BEINGS IN HIS IMMEDIATE VICINITY. HE CAN MAKE THEM FEEL JOY, SADNESS, FEAR, RAGE, LOVE, HATE-- ANYTHING. THE EFFECT SEEMS TRANSITORY AND IT IS AS YET UNKNOWN WHETHER OR NOT HE CAN WREAK A PERMANENT CHANGE IN A SUBJECT'S EMOTIONAL STATE.



REGRETTABLY, HE ENJOYS UTILIZING THIS TALENT. PEOPLE, TO HIM, SEEM NO MORE THAN OBJECTS, SERVANTS PROVIDED TO GRATIFY HIS NEEDS AND WHIMS, TOYS PROVIDED FOR HIS AMUSEMENT. IF HE PERCEIVES AN INSULT, HE GENERALLY ATTEMPTS TO AVENGE IT IN THE CRUELEST, MOST HURTFUL MANNER POSSIBLE.

THERE IS NO KINDNESS IN HIM, NO DECENCY, NO GENEROSITY-- IF THERE IS A LIVING DEFINITION OF EVIL, IT MAY WELL BE HE.

DM SHAKENIM



MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY

HEADMISTRESS' EVALUATION-- SHARON SMITH/CATSEYE

AGE UNKNOWN / INDETERMINATE, ESTIMATED AT ROUGHLY 14-15. FERAL CHILD, WITH NO MEMORY OF ANY ENVIRONMENT SAVE THE MANHATTAN UNDERGROUND WHERE SHE GREW UP AND THE FELINE WHO ACTED AS SURROGATE MOTHER-- REFERENCE, "MOWGLI" SYNDROME, RUDYARD KIPLING'S JUNGLE BOOK.

PHENOMENAL IQ-- COMPARABLE, POSSIBLY SUPERIOR, TO KITTY PRYDE'S-- TOTAL RECALL, PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY. PROGRESSED FROM TOTAL ILLITERACY TO UPPER-GRADE SCHOOL READING LEVELS IN LESS THAN A YEAR. FORCED TO PROVIDE FOR HERSELF SINCE EARLIEST INFANCY; ENJOYS THE HUNT, IF HUNGRY, WILL NOT HESITATE TO KILL-- IN MANY WAYS, MORE ANIMAL THAN PERSON.

SINCE IT WAS I WHO FOUND HER, SHE HAS EMOTIONALLY ATTACHED HERSELF TO ME, RELATING TO ME AS A SURROGATE MOTHER.

THIS RELATIONSHIP ALLOWS FOR EXPLOITATION BY THE HELLFIRE CLUB-- BUT CONSIDERABLE CARE MUST BE TAKEN; HER YOUTH AND COMPARATIVE LACK OF SOPHISTICATION BELIE A FEROCIOUS INTELLIGENCE. SHE KNOWS WHEN SHE IS LIED TO AND WILL NOT COUNTENANCE THAT. MOREOVER, SHE AS YET NEITHER COMPREHENDS NOR ACCEPTS THE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN HELLIONS AND XAVIER'S NEW MUTANTS; SHE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THOSE WHO ARE HER PERSONAL FRIENDS MUST BE HER TEAM'S FOES.



# MINUTEMEN

